

flat-cakes and fried onions. We foreigners realize a heavy handicap in this respect. However, these things are the externals and the presence and power of the Spirit are the essential.

A brewer at this point, Ling-Chng, is one of the largest contributors to the little church. He is not a Christian, but his cook is, and is such a devoted one that his master thoroughly respects him and has learned from him the power of Christianity over men. He quotes Confucius, who says: "That a servant that has 'doctrine' is easy to get along with. And a master that has doctrine is just."

Last Sunday I was taken into a new section to visit and open two new outposts. A leader of a society of many hundred men was with us. He is very earnest, but as yet ignorant, and so we did not give a chance to testify that day. Mr. Li and I held the floor all day and all night! He probably thought that we had plenty of side tracks, but no terminus. So next morning he said he would not accompany us home, but would go to visit his aunt. "This," he said, "is my nominal reason for going to that place, but really it is to tell the gospel up there, because last night I had studied up Scripture passages and I am swollen to death with what I want to say. Just imagine how I feel with illustrations ready, too!" This whole section is calling earnestly for a man to work with them. We are running in debt supporting the men that we have, and yet we thank the Lord of the harvest that the calls come and will come. For truly they sit "without hope and without God in the world." And they are dumb in their sorrow, as their homes are burned or their infants are snatched away. And their consolation is weeping at the grave of a dead mother, praying dead ears to have compassion on them in their anguish!

I have only told you something of the sixteen or twenty points in my field where the ingathering is going on.

Scarlet fever and diphtheria are making sad havoc with the people in this section now. Three of our recently baptized infants have died within a few days. These diseases are from the West, so the people have not acquired immunity, hence the heavy casualties. Also whole families among our people are down with the influenza.

We are due home on furlough in the summer. Mr. McLaughlin is here to undertake my work while I am away. By the time Mr. Junkin's furlough comes the year will be too short for two of us to get around the field twice as heretofore. The doors are wide, wide open. God help us and the Church to go and possess the land for Him.

Sutsien, China.

THE ASSEMBLY MINUTES.

The minutes of the New Orleans Assembly are now all printed and will be going out this week. I am gratified that just one month after the Assembly closed I am able to lay before the Church this handsome volume of over 300 pages filled with very valuable and important matter to our people. Of course some errors will appear; they are unavoidable in the circumstances. I have been advised of several in the printed reports which were handed me for the appendix; and the chairmen of some of the committees would doubtless be surprised at the number of errors I had to correct in the typewritten reports which they read before the Assembly and had it to adopt. Critics have been accustomed to ascribe such errors to undue haste in getting out

the minutes. But there has been no hurry on the part of either clerk or printer this year. We have bestowed all the time and care needed; but by beginning early, taking "time by the forelock," keeping steadily on the job, and working together thoroughly and efficiently, we have accomplished the heavy task successfully.

The statistics this year, except as to contributions, are disappointing, and somewhat surprising, especially as to total communicants. Last year, when the printing was done in Richmond, and the machine additions and entry of the figures were made in our Publishing House, very serious errors appeared. So I had expected that with 13,587 added on examination, our total membership would reach 375,000; and I was amazed when the competent and experienced bank clerk whom I had employed to do the machine adding, showed that the reports footed up only 364,230. I then compared last year's Synodical totals with those of this year, and could discover no general falling off. So I went back to last year's figures to see if I could discover the error there. But unable to find how the sum had been obtained, I began adding and subtracting to correct the errors of last year which had been pointed out in our Church papers, and thus secured the figures as to total communicants which appear in the comparative summary. These figures may not be absolutely correct, but they show approximately what the Presbyteries reported in 1918.

As to the falling off this year in Sabbath school enrollment, I am utterly unable to discover where the secretary, who filled in the figures, got 336,480, which appear in last year's summary. They are not found in either the Sabbath school table or the general summary. Those I have inserted this year are taken from the summary of Presbyterial statistical reports. They fall a few hundred short of the total in this year's Sabbath school table, which was not before me when I prepared the comparative summary. But as the figures in both the Presbyterial statistical tables and the Sabbath school reports come from the same source, they ought to be identical, and I supposed that they agreed.

In general, we should bear in mind that the last has been a very abnormal year in our Church's work. The war has called into the service of the country so many of our young men and women, and taken away so many of our ministers from their charges; and the widespread epidemic of influenza so seriously interrupted our services, and caused thousands of deaths, that we could hardly expect the usual progress. Besides this, the reports from the Presbyteries have been, from various causes, the most defective upon the whole that I have ever handled.

Thos. H. Law, Stated Clerk.
Spartanburg, S. C., June 23d.

Miscellaneous

SOME FIGURES WORTH NOTING.

Comparison of Y. M. C. A. War Work Overseas With That of Other Agencies.

While so much publicity is being given in the secular press to the work of the K. of C. for the soldiers overseas, it is well to realize the actual extent of this work as compared with that of the Y. M. C. A. War Work Council. The figures recently compiled by the A. E. F. officials gave the following noteworthy results.

With approximately 1,500,000 doughboys still in France and occupied Germany, there is now one American war worker for every 150 men and one hut operated by an American war work organization for every 900 men.

The totals as given in the resumé for all the war agencies, exclusive of the American Red Cross, are 9,918 men and women workers and 1,656 huts. Of the total number of workers, 8,350 are representatives of the Y. M. C. A., leaving the overseas war work strength of all other organizations at 1,268. Of the total number of huts, 1,507 are operated by the Y. M. C. A., and the remaining 149 by all other war work agencies. These are certainly significant figures, and should be remembered when extravagant and boastful statements are made about the K. of C. and its "free giving" to all. What the army would have been without the Y. M. C. A. is indicated by these totals of workers and huts.

The Y. M. C. A. is said to have expended half the amount which will be available to it for use in France. Some idea of the expenditure made for war work in the period which passed with the institution of the program of co-ordination is shown in the record of the Y. M. C. A. This organization had invested \$4,500,000 in overseas huts and their equipment up to the first of the year, with an average maintenance cost of more than \$70,000 a month. It gave away in combat areas, from last May to the end of November, goods valued at more than \$700,000, and its Christmas gifts to the doughboys last year represented a value of more than half a million.

It has distributed more than \$2,000,000 worth of books, literature and Bibles free to the soldiers.

Incidentally, the Y. M. C. A. had transmitted free of charge for the soldiers up to April 5th of this year 312,316 remittances to the value of \$18,627,777.65.

An interesting feature of the Y. M. C. A. athletic work is its effect among Russian prisoners in Germany. Athletic supplies sent to the M. P. guarding those prisoners were used to a small degree with such good results that supplies were subsequently shipped to the prison camps exclusively for this purpose. Officials declare that the introduction of games among these men has reduced the problem of control in a remarkable manner.

In spite of the rapidity with which the army is being demobilized, the number of secretaries now in Y. M. C. A. war work in the United States is 4,770.

A good place in which to exercise patience is in bearing the shortcomings of others.—Ex.

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